

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 271

To require the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that at least an equivalent level of service will be supplied to the public and affected agencies before closing National Weather Service field stations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 1997

Ms. SNOWE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that at least an equivalent level of service will be supplied to the public and affected agencies before closing National Weather Service field stations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That section 706(e) of the Weather Service Mod-
4 ernization Act (15 U.S.C. 313 note) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph
6 (1);

7 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
8 graph (2) and inserting “; or”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end thereof the following:

2 “(3) which is located in, or serves, an area
3 identified as an area of geographic concern in chap-
4 ter 4 of the report entitled ‘Assessment of NEXRAD
5 Coverage and Associated Weather Services’ pub-
6 lished in June, 1995, by the National Research
7 Council, unless, prior to closing or relocating the
8 field office, the Secretary—

9 “(A) evaluates, as part of the certification
10 process, the effect of that closing or relocation
11 on all weather information and services pro-
12 vided to users served by that field office (in-
13 cluding State agencies, civil defense officials,
14 local public safety officials, farmers, and other
15 local citizens serviced by that field office); and

16 “(B) includes in a certification made by
17 the Secretary under subsection (b) a determina-
18 tion that, after the closing or relocation, at
19 least an equivalent level of weather services pro-
20 vided to the users referred to in subparagraph
21 (A) before the closing or relocation will be pro-
22 vided to those users.”.

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